

Message Text

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO

PARIS FOR NESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP ELEVENTH CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING

REF: GENEVA 788

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE NOTE ON MEETING OF THE 11TH
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CONSULTATIONS ON SPECIALIZED AGENCIES HELD IN GENEVA

FEB 5-6, 1974. THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE SWISS

DELEGATION ON THE SUBJECT OF CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS AND THE
EFFECT OF BUDGETS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED

IN PARA 15(A) OF THE NOTE CONTAILED REFTEL.

QUOTE:

1. THE 11TH MEETING OF THE GENEVA GROUP AT THE CONSULTATION LEVEL WAS HELD IN GENEVA ON 5 AND 6 FEB 1974. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED AS MEMBERS: AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES. REPRESENTATIVES OF SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND PARTICIPATED AS OBSERVERS.

AGENDA ITEM I: REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF GENEVA GROUP ACTIVITIES SINCE MARCH 1973 AND FUTURE PROBLEMS AND OBJECTIVES INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GROUP REPORTS

2. THE MEETING CONSIDERED INDIVIDUAL LOCALGROUP REPORTS BEFORE GOING ON TO MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION. PARTICULAR COMMENTS WERE MADE ON THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:

A) FAO. SEVERAL POINTS OF WIDER INTEREST AROSE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FAO REPORT:

(I) CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS AND INFLATION ACCOUNTED FOR MUCH OF THE 30 PCT. BUDGET INCREASE IN 1974/75, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN GREATER WITHOUT GENEVA GROUP ACTION. A SPECIAL PROBLEM AROSE WHERE LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS WERE MADE TO BUDGETS AND THIS PRACTICE SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED.

(II) A DISQUITTING TREND TOWARDS FULL BUDGETING WAS NOTED IN THE FAO. THE MEETING EXPRESSED A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF SEMI-FULL BUDGETING IN THE UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

(III) ATTENTION WAS CALLED TO THE IMPORTANCE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GENEVA GROUP OF THE PROGRAMS FINANCED FROM EXTRA BUDGETARY FUNDS, WHICH COMPRISE 2/3 OF FAO ACTIVITIES, AND TO THE RELATED PROBLEM OF OVERHEAD COSTS. THE DELEGATION OF THE FRG STATED THAT IT INTENDED TO SUBMIT A PAPER ON THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF OVERHEAD COSTS TO THE NEXT CONSULTATION ON SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

(IV) IT WAS RECALLED THAT AT AN EARLIER CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT POSTS IN THE FILED SHOULD BE ASKED TO SUBMIT REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES UNDER UN COUNTRY PROGRAMMING. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MEMBERS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION OF THIS KIND.

B) IAEA. THE AGENCY WAS COMMENDED FOR INDICATING EACH YEAR WHAT PROPORTION OF THE INCREASE IN ITS ANNUAL BUDGET WAS DUE TO PROGRAMME EXPANSION AND HOW MUCH TO PRICE INCREASES. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT AGENCIES WHICH DID NOT DO SO MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IT WAS NOTED THAT THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE PRESSURE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE FINANCING OF SAFEGUARDS EXPENDITURE (THE COMPLICATED SYSTEM AGREED IN 1971 COULD NOT BE ALTERED BEFORE 1976), AND ALSO FOR AN INCREASE IN THE TARGET FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

C) ICAO. THE MEETING AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF FINANCING ICAO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FROM UNDP AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, RATHER THAN FROM REGULAR BUDGETS. SUBJECT TO RESERVATIONS BY TWO DELEGATIONS THAT THE POINT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AGENCY BY AGENCY, IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS POLICY SHOULD APPLY ACROSS THE BOARD. IT WAS NOTED THAT BECAUSE A GOOD DEAL OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS, INCLUDING THE MOVE TO A NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, HAD TO BE COMPLETED, BUDGET GROWTH IN ICAO HAD BEEN UNEVEN IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE TRIENNIAL, BUT THAT ITS AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH OF 8 PCT. COMPARED FAVORABLE WITH OTHER BRANCHES OF THE UN SYSTEM.

D) ILO. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ILO WORKING PARTY ON THE FINANCING OF THE BUDGET WAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION AND GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS SERVING ON THE WORKING PARTY WERE ASKED TO KEEP THE LOCAL GROUP INFORMED ON THE WORKING PARTY'S PROGRESS. BUT IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE WORKING
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PARTY SHOULD DELAY REACHING CONCLUSIONS ON CURRENCY STABILITY UNTIL THE UN WORKING GROUP ON THIS SUBJECT HAD REPORTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ATTENTION WAS ALSO DRAWN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF "WINDFALL PROFITS" FOLLOWING THE RECENT STRENGTHENING OF THE DOLLAR.

E) UNCTAD. THE MEETING DISCUSSED THE DESIRABILITY OF THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE UNCTAD GENEVA GROUP. SOME DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT THERE WAS AN INSUFFICIENT PRACTICAL RESULT, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THAT, SINCE UNCTAD IS A UN ORGAN, ITS BUDGET IS DETERMINED IN NEW YORK. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT WORK DONE IN THE GENEVA GROUP IN 1973 HAD BEEN REFLECTED IN POSITIONS TAKEN BY DELEGATIONS TO THE FIFTH COMMITTEE AT THE 28TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MOREOVER, GROUP B, WITH A WIDER MEMBERSHIP BUT BROADLY SIMILAR INTERESTS, ALREADY OPERATED IN UNCTAD. OTHER MEMBERS FOUND THAT THE DISTINCTIVE INTERESTS OF THE GENEVA GROUP WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN GROUP B AND THAT THE GENEVA GROUP'S SPECIFIC RANGE OF INTERESTS COULD ESTABLISH A GREATER COHERENCE OF POINTS OF VIEW AND ENABLE MEMBERS TO CONVEY THESE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE UNCTAD WORKING PARTY ON PROGRAMME AND BUDGET AND TO THE SECRETARIAT. AMONG THE

POINTS IDENTIFIED AS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS WERE: NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTATION; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES; A GENERAL SURVEILLANCE OF ACTION TAKEN IN BUDGETARY MATTERS AND EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE FUTURE BUDGETARY PLANS AT AN EARLY STATE.

SIMILAR CONSIDERATIONS APPLIED TO UNIDO. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT ALTHOUGH THE UNCTAD AND UNIDO GROUPS MIGHT PLAY A SOMEWHAT LESS SIGNIFICANT ROLE THAN THOSE CONCERNED WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES THEY COULD, NEVERTHELESS, BE USEFUL IN REVIEWING OPERATIONS AND WORKING FOR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THESE GROUPS SHOULD, IN THE COURSE OF THE COMING YEAR, CONSIDER THE NATURE OF THEIR FUTURE ROLE AND REPORT TO THE NEXT CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING.

F) UNIDO. THREE POINTS WERE RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS ITEM. AS REGARDS ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY, WHICH THE GROUP GENERALLY OPPOSED, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE ACABQ WOULD BE REPORTING TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FORTHCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THIS TOPIC, AND THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED IN THE UNIDO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LONG TERM STRATEGY AND AT THE NEXT UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE. ANY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL FIELD ADVISERS WAS ATTENDANT UPON THE DECISION OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, OF WHICH THE MEETING WAS NOT INFORMED. SIMILARLY THE PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A POST OF DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON A DECISION ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP.

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G) USESCO. HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THT THE USE OF SHORT TERM BORROWING WOULD NOT BECOME NECESSARY. IT WAS SAID THAT PROMPT PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD HELP AVOID THIS. THE LOCAL GENEVA GROUP HAD SUCCEEDED IN LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF THE ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO EXERCISE CONTINUED VIGILANCE ON THE FINANCIALSITUATION OF THE ORGAIIZATION. THE IMPROVEMENT IF THE DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE SHOULD PERMIT SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS, OBTAINING THE NCESSITY FOR ANY FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARIES. IN THE COMING EAR AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THE LOCAL GROUP WOULD BE TO WATCH OVER THE PLANNING OF THE DRAFT BUDGET AND THE DOCUMENT ON MAJOR OBJECTIVES EARLY ENOUGH TO CO-ORDINATE THE VIEWS OF THE GROUP.

H) UPU. THE MAJOR POINT RELATING SOLELY TO THE UPU GENEVA GROUP REPORT WAS THAT COLOSE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MATTER OF THE SALARY SCALE TO ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN COMMON SYSTEM. THE GROUP'S STATEMENT THAT IT WAS GIVING ATTENTION TO MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY AS WELL AS BUDGETARY EFFECTIVENESS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS INFLUENCE ON UPU SUB-BODIES THROUGH MEMBERS WAS COMMENDED AS A GUIDE FOR ALL GENEVA GROUPS.

I) WHO. IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THE WHO GENEVA GROUP REPORT, ATTENTION WAS CALLED TO:

I) THE FACT THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL INTENDS TO REORIENT AND VIRTUALLY TO STABILIZE THE BUDGETS IN 1975, AND POSSIBLY IN 1976, IN TERMS OF PROGRAM GROWTH, AND TO CONSIDER THAT OVERHEAD COSTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROJECTS FIANANCED BY UNDP AND OTHER VOLUNTARY FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE CHARGED TO THE WHO REGULAR BUDGET;

II) THE PROPOSAL THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SHOULD ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE;

III) THE RELATIVELY MODEST BUDGET INCREASE FOR 1975 UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD#;

IV) THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS PROVIDING FOR BIENNIAL BUDGETING;

V) THE FACT THAT THE WHO REMAINED THE ONLY UN BODY
NOT TO APPLY MINUS POST ADJUSTMENTS.

THE MEETING ENDORSED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WHO
EXECUTIVE BOARD THAT THE WHA POSTPONE A DECISION ON THE CONSTRUCTION
OF AN EXTENSION TO THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FOR AT LEAST
ANOTHER YEAR. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT FUNDS AVAILABLE
UNDER CASUAL INCOME SHOULD BE USED TO REDUCE ASSESSMENTS
RATHER THAN BEING AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE REAL
ESTATE FUND.

THE ITALIAN DELEGATION EXPRESSED CONCERN AT SUCH
AN INCREASE AND SUGGESTED CO-ORDINATION AMONG GENEVA
GROUP DELEGATIONS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A REDUCTION AT
UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NEXT WHA.

J) WMO. ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE EFFECTS OF CURRENCY
INSTABILITY ON WMO IN VIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION'S 4-YEAR BUD-
GETARY CYCLE AND TO THE CONDITIONAL AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BY THE WMO CONGRESS
TO DEAL WITH UNFORESEEN BUDGETARY PROBLEMS. A BALLOT WAS NOT
BEING HELD AMONG MEMBERS REQUESTING AUTHORITY FOR THE SECRETARY
GENERAL TO HAVE RECOURSE TO THIS FLEXIBILITY CLAUSE. MEMBERS
OF THE GENEVA GROUP WERE ENCOURAGED TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS
MEASURE. THERE WAS GENERAL APPROVAL OF THE ORGANIZATION'S
VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME AND GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH
PROGRAMME.

K) GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL). THE MEETING COMMENDED THE
WORK OF THE GENEVA GROUP GENERAL AND REQUESTED THAT IT CONTINUE
TO SERVE AS A STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSULTATION LEVEL.
PARTICULAR POINTS MADE CONCERNED:

I) CONSULTATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CONSIDERABLE
SYMPATHY WAS EXPRESSED WITH THE AIMS UNDERLYING THE NETHER-
LANDS PROPOSAL FOR ENCOURAGING CONSULTATIONS WITH DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES ON AN INFORMAL BASIS WITH THE AIM OF ANNOUNCING DIF-
FERENCES OF VIEW ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST. SOME DELEGA-
TIONS SAW DIFFICULTIES IN USING THE GENEVA GROUP AS SUCH FOR
A PURPOSE WHICH MIGHT HAVE POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS OR LEAD IT
INTO A NEGOTIATING ROLE. THE MEETING AGREED THAT THE IMPRESSION
SHOULD BE AVOIDED THAT IN THIS MATTER THE GENEVA GROUP WOULD
BE ACTING AS SUCH. HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF LOCAL GROUPS SHOULD
CONTINUE TO MAKE FULL USE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SIDEN, THROUGH
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, THE AREA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEMSELVES
AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON ISSUES ARISING IN VARIOUS INTER-
NATIONAL BODIES.

II) REAL GROWTH BUDGETS. THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION

EXPLAINED SOME OF THEIR PROBLEMS IN PREPARING A STUDY OF THE REAL GROWTH OF BUDGETS, WORK ON WHICH WAS CONTINUING. THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION WOULD KEEP THE GROUP INFORMED.

III) LONG TERM PLANNING. THE GROUP ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL THAT THE SUBJECT OF LONG TERM PLANNING SHOULD REMAIN ON ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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AGENDA AND THAT OF INDIVIDUAL LOCAL GROUPS. IT NOTED THAT A JOINT INSPECTION UNIT STUDY ON LONG TERM PLANNING WAS IN PREPARATION AND SHOULD RECEIVE CAREFUL ATTENTION BY GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS WHEN IT IS ISSUED.

3. GENEVA GROUP ACTIVITY. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS STRESSED THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE GENEVA GROUP MECHANISM, POINTING OUT THAT IT PROVIDED A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO: EXCHANGE INFORMATION; DRAW CONCLUSIONS FROM PAST EVENTS; SEEK WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THE UN SYSTEM; ASSIST TOWARDS A MORE PENETRATING ANALYSIS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCY ACTIVITIES; IMPROVE INTERNAL CO-ORDINATION; ENCOURAGE ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY IN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES; AND TEST IDEA FOR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION THE DELEGATION OF ITALY POINTED OUT THAT AT A TIME OF ECONOMIC CRISIS FOR GOVERNMENTS A REDUCTION OF EXPENDITURES MUST BE DEMANDED OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. THIS SHOULD BE SOUGHT:

A) BY SEEKING ECONOMIES OF MANAGEMENT, E.G. BY ACCELERATING THE UNIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS, RIGOROUSLY AVOIDING DUPLICATION OF PROGRAMMES AND SEEKING TO LIMIT THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONSTANT DEMAND FOR INCREASING THE SIZE OF SECRETARIATS RESULTING FROM RESOLUTION VOTED THROUGH BY MAJORITIES;

B) BY SIMULTANEOUSLY AIMING AT A REDUCTION OF ACTIVITY THROUGH SELECTING PRIORITY PROGRAMMES.

PERMANENT MISSIONS OF GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS SHOULD PURSUE THESE OBJECTIVES AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD ALSO BE BRIEFED TO TAKE THEM FULLY INTO ACCOUNT.

4. SUMMARY. THE CHAIRMAN, SUMMARIZING THE DISCUSSION ON ITEM I A) - J), MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) THE MEETING HAD WELCOMED THE REPORTS OF THE LOCAL GROUPS, WHICH HAD BEEN DRAFTED WITH CARE AND CONTAINED USEFUL REFLECTIONS; IT CONGRATULATED THE LOCAL GROUPS ON THEIR WORK; B) THE MEETING GAVE GENERAL ENDORSEMENT TO THE SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION CONTAINED IN THE REPORTS, SUBJECT TO ANY COMMENTS RECORDED ABOVE ON INDIVIDUAL REPORTS; C) IT WAS NOTED THAT SEVERAL POINTS AROSE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN MORE THAN ONE REPORT, FOR EXAMPLE, EFFECTS OF CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS AND OVERHEAD COSTS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: CERTAIN OF THESE MIGHT USEFULLY BE EXAMINED IN GREATER DEPTH BY THE LOCAL GROUPS.

5. PROPOSAL FOR A GEREVA GROUP IN NEW YORK. THE MEETING TOOK NOTE OF THE REPORT PREPARED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS IN NEW YORK, AND OF ITS CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A NEW YORK GENEVA GROUP AS SUCH. TWO DELEGATIONS CONTINUED TO FEEL A GENEVA GROUP IN NEW YORK WAS DESIRABLE. THE OTHER DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER, DID ACCEPT THE CONCLUSION WITH THE PROVISIO THAT, AS SUGGESTED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE PAPER, REPRESENTATIVES OF GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK SHOULD, AS APPROPRIATE, HOLD SPECIAL MEETINGS TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS PARTICULARLY GERMANE TO GENEVA GROUP INTERESTS (E.G. QUESTIONS CONCERNING UNCTAD AND UNIDO, EXPERIENCE OF THE TWO-YEAR BUDGET CYCLE AND THE SYSTEM OF PROGRAMME BUDGETING, THE ICSC, AND AN EVALUATION MECHANISM OF THE UN SYSTEM.

6. PROPOSAL FOR THE GENEVA GROUP (UNEP) IN NAIROBI. THE DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM SHOWED THAT A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ESTABLISH A GENEVA GROUP IN NAIROBI TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM. OTHERS, HOWEVER, DREW ATTENTION TO THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT NOT ALL GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED IN NAIROBI; THAT FEW OF THESE WERE AT PRESENT STAFFED TO DEAL WITH GENEVA GROUP SUBJECT MATTER; AND THAT UNEP WAS FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS, WHICH RAISED QUESTIONS AS TO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF GENEVA GROUP TREATMENT AND OF THE PROPER PARTICIPATION IN STUDYING BUDGETARY QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD MISSIONS IN NAIROBI SHOULD INSTRUCT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AS APPROPRIATE WITH A VIEW TO FOLLOWING THE WORK OF UNEP, DEVELOPING A GENEVA GROUP TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WITHOUT CONSTITUTING A FORMAL GROUP. THE GENEVA GROUP AT THE CONSULTATION LEVEL COULD, IF APPROPRIATE, REASSESS THE POSITION AT A LATER MEETING.

AGENDA ITEM II: INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTER USE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UN SYSTEM

7. THE MEETING ENCOURSED THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE PAPER, NAMELY:

A) TO REAFFIRM THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE 10TH CONSULTATION TO SUPPORT THE SEARCH FOR THE MAXIMUM PRACTICABLE COMPATABILITY OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS USING ESPECIALLY THE INTER-

ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD BUT ALSO OTHER APPROPRIATE BODIES;

B) TO CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT FOR, AND ACTIVE INTEREST IN, THE ECOSOC DECISION CALLING FOR AN IN-DEPTH STUDY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTER USE, AND TO MAKE THIS INTEREST KNOWN TO THE RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE APPROACHES TO SECRETARIATS, BY STATEMENTS GOVERNING BODIES, OR BY OTHER MEANS;

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C) TO CONTINUE, IN GENEVA AND IN LOCAL GROUPS AS APPROPRIATE;

(I) TO MAINTAIN A CLOSE AND CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE MANAGERS OF THE ICC AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE IOB SECRETARIAT;

(II) TO MONITOR THE EXTENT OF AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN ICC;

(III) TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT AGENCIES MIGHT BE ABLE TO PHASE OUT OR AT LEAST REDUCE THE SIZE OF THEIR INDEPENDENT COMPUTER FACILITIES AS THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF AUTOMATIC LONG DISTANCE LINKS DEVELOPED.

8. IN ENDORSING C) (II) AND (III), THE GROUP UNDERLINED THAT

IT DID SO IN THE LIGHT OF ITS VIEW THAT MEMBERS SHOULD INSIST
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ON THE EFFICIENT AND ECONOMIC USE OF UN COMPUTER FACILITIES,
BOTH IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK, AND ON THEIR INTEREST IN
ENCOURAGING ALL AGENCIES IN EUROPE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE USE
OF THE ICC AND IN ENSURING THAT EXPENDITURE OF COMPUTER FACILI-
TIES WAS KEPT OF MINIMUM. APPRECIATION WAS
EXPRESSED FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WORK-
ING GROUP IN EXAMINING THIS PROBLEM.

AGENDA ITEM III. GENEVA GROUP COORDINATION OF ECOSOC IN-
DEPTH STUDIES

9. THERE WAS GENERAL APPROVAL OF THIS PAPER IN THE GROUP.
IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PREPARATION OF GROUP COMMENTS FOR
ECOSOC'S IN-DEPTH STUDIES (OF FAO AND ITU IN 1974) WOULD PRO-
VIDE A USEFUL GOAL ON WHICH LOCAL GENEVA GROUP ACTIVITY COULD
FOCUS. THE MODALITIES SUGGESTED IN THE PAPER-THAT THE
INITIAL GUIDANCE PAPER ON WHICH THE LOCAL GROUP DISCUSSION
WOULD BE BASED WOULD BE PREPARED IN A CAPITAL-WERE ACCEPTED.
ONE MEMBER EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE LOCAL GROUP COULD
BE STRENGTHENED WITH EXPERT REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS TO
ENSURE THE MOST THOROUGH TREATMENT POSSIBLE. THE PREVIOUS
ECOSOC IN-DEPTH STUDIES HAD LACKED PENETRATION, PARTLY BECAUSE
OF A LACK OF FORE-KNOWLEDGE BY SOME DELEGATIONS, AND IT WAS
WIDELY AGREED THAT THIS EXERCISE COULD DO SOMETHING TOWARDS
PROVIDING A BODY OF RELIABLE MATERIAL FOR DELEGATIONS TO DRAW
ON.

10. THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OFFERED TO UNDERTAKE
THE PREPARATION OF THE GUIDANCE BRIEF FOR THE FAO LOCAL GENEVA
GROUP AND SUGGESTED THAT THE ITU STUDY BE CARRIED OUT BY THE
GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL), WHICH WOULD, IN TURN, CHOOSE A DELE-
GATION TO PREPARE THEIR GUIDANCE BRIEF.

AGENDA ITEM IV. ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN
RESOLUTIONS INVOLVING HIGH EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO RESULTS.

11. THERE WAS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL THAT THE
GENEVA GROUP SHOULD EXAMINE CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS OF AGENCIES
THAT INVOLVE HIGH EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO RESULTS ACHIEVED.
THE MEETING AGREED THAT THE GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) IN GENEVA
SHOULD SELECT ONE LOCAL AGENCY (A SUGGESTION WAS MADE THAT
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UNCTAD MIGHT BE A SUITABLE CANDIDATE) FOR THE PURPOSE OF A
PILOT STUDY BY A WORKING PARTY CHAIRED BY THE ITALIAN DELE-
GATION. A REPORT ON THIS STUDY WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE 12TH.
CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING WHICH WILL CONSIDER FOLLOW-UP

ACTION.

AGENDA ITEM V. (A) PROPOSAL FOR AN INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL
EVALUATION MECHANISM FOR THE UN SYSTEM

12. INTRODUCING THE PAPER, THE US REPRESENTATIVE STRESSED (A) THAT THIS COULD BE NO MORE THAN AN INITIAL DISCUSSION OF A COMPLEX ITEM, AND THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE IN THE NATURE OF A SEMINAR IN WHICH TO RAISE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO THESE PROPOSALS; (B) THAT THIS PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF VARIOUS GA RESOLUTIONS AND ECOSOC DECISIONS. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WELCOMED THE PAPER, WHICH FACED UP TO A LONG RECOGNIZED PROBLEM. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC POINTS WERE RAISED CONCERNING THE PRECISE MODALITIES BY WHICH AN EVALUATION MECHANISM COULD BE INSTITUTIONALIZED. SOME FELT THAT THE PROPOSED ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND COORDINATION MATTERS (ACPCM) SHOULD NOT TAKE ON THE MANTLE OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC), BUT SHOULD BE ANOTHER INDEPENDENT BODY ON THE LINES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ). OTHER MEMBERS FELT THAT THE PROPOSED EXTERNAL EVALUATION SUPPORT STAFF (EESS), THOUGH NECESSARY FOR THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE ACPCM, MIGHT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE IN ITS PROPOSED FORM TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. EQUALLY, CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (JIU), THE EESS AND THE PROPOSED INSPECTOR GENERAL, AND ABOUT THE NEED TO AVOID DUPLICATION BETWEEN THESE. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSED TERM "INSPECTOR GENERAL" MIGHT BE RECONSIDERED. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE PAPER, BUT THAT THE DISCUSSION WOULD BE TREATED AS AN OPEN-ENDED ONE WHICH WOULD BE CONTINUED BY GENEVA GROUP DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK WITH OTHER UN MEMBERS CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEED FOR AN EVALUATION MECHANISM. THE QUESTION OF THE TIMING OF THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS TO ECOSOC WOULD ALSO BE LEFT FOR DISCUSSION IN NEW YORK. THE GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) SHOULD BE KEPT INFORMED OF
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DEVELOPMENTS.

AGENDA ITEM V.(B) NEW DIRECTORS FOR THE ILO

13. THE MEETING AGREED THAT THIS WAS A USEFUL AND INTERESTING PAPER, RAISING IDEAS WHICH COULD USEFULLY BE PURSUED IN RELATION TO THE ILO. THIS WAS A PARTICULARLY OPORTUNE MOMENT SINCE THE ILO WOULD SOON HAVE A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL AND WOULD ALSO BE STUDYING A DRAFT 6 YEAR PLAN IN THE COMING MONTHS. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PAPER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE GENEVA GROUP (ILO), PREFEREBLY WITH EXPERT ASSISTANCE FROM CAPITALS.

AGENDA ITEM VI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

14. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) SHOULD SET THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN THE FALL OF 1974.

ADENDA ITEM VII. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS

15. (A) STATEMENT OF PROGRAM BUDGETING AND THE BIENNIAL BUDGET CYCLE. THE DELEGATES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY MADE A STATEMENT ON THIS TOPIC. HE CONSIDERED THAT RECENT EXAMPLES OF BIENNIAL PROGRAM BUDGETING HAD BROUGHT NUMBER OF PROBLEMS. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE PROGRAM AND THE BUDGET HAD BEEN TREATED AS SYNONYMOUS AND THAT THE CONCENTRATION ON PROGRAMME MATTERS LEADS TO THE NEGLECT OF SPECIFIC BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS, EXPECIALLY THE ECONOMIC USE OF FUNDS. AT PRESENT INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION ABOUT ALL TYPES OF EXPENDITURES WAS PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET PRESENTATION. IT WAS NECWS-SARY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE DETAIL TO ALLAY DEVELOPING COUNTRY FEARS THAT ECONOMIES WERE BOUND TO ENTAIL PROGRAM CUTS. HE ADDED THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INFLATION AND CURRENCY FLUCTUATION EXPERIENCED RECENTLY, THE BIENNIAL CYCLE WAS PERHAPS NOT WORKABLE AS ORGINALLY INTENDED. IT WAS AGREED THAT EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE LOCAL GENEVA GROUPS AND AT THE 12TH CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING.

(B) STATEMENT BY THE SWISS GOVERNMENT ON THE EFFECT OF MONETARY FLUCTUATIONS ON THE BUDGETS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-UNCLASSIFIED

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TIONS THE SWISS REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEMS FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE US SYSTEM, POSED BY THE INSTABILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CURRECNY SITUATION. IT ACCEPTED THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH ORGANIZATIONS WERE OBLIGED TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THEIR OWN FINANCIAL POSITION. BUT THE SWISS GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SWISS FRANC MIGHT BE CALLED UPON TO SERVE AS A MAJOR UN CURRENCY, WHICH WOULD IMPOSE ON THE SWISS CURRENCY A ROLE OUT OF PROPORTION TO THE SIZE AND EXONOMIC POTENTIAL OF SWITZERLAND. THE SWISS GOVERNMENT THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE TO RELY ON ONLY ONE MAJOR CURRENCY UNIT WITHIN THE US SYSTEM AND THE US DOLLAR SEEMED BEST SUITED TO FILL THIS ROLE.

THIS STATEMENT WAS WELCOMED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TEXTS SHOULD BE CIRCULATED AMONG MEMBERS FOR DISCUSSION BY LOCAL GENEVA GROUPS AND FOR CONSIDERATION IN CONNECTION WITH WORK ON CURRENCY INSTABILITY AT THE UN IN NEW YORK.

(C) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. IN INTRODUCING HIS DELEGATION'S PAPER, THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE DREW ATTENTION, IN ADDITION TO THE PROBLEMS THERE RAISED, TO

THE QUALMS FELT BY A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS ON THE PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSIONERS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE PROPOSED STATUTE. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE IDEA OF SETTING UP THE ICSC SHOULD NOT BE DISCARDED.

THE BRIEF DISCUSSION SHOWED THAT THERE WERE DEFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN DELEGATIONS BUT IT WAS AGREED THAT THE JAPANESE PAPER SERVED AS A USEFUL BASIS FOR REFLECTION BY GOVERNMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THE 29TH GA, AND FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION MEETINGS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS IN NEW YORK.

(D) CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. A QUESTION WAS RAISED AS TO WHETHER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP CONTINUED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE GROUP. FOR THEIR PART, BOTH CO-CHAIRMEN WOULD BE WILLING TO STAND DOWN IN FAVOR OF A SYSTEM OF ROTATION, PROVIDING THE CONTINUING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GENEVA GROUP WAS ASSURED.

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THE MEETING AGREED TO REFER THIS MATTER TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA FOR APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS.

(E) THE MEETING EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) WOULD, AS APPROPRIATE, CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES IN GENEVA FOR WHICH THERE WAS NO LOCAL GENEVA GROUP.DALE

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